

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037977

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, CA

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH GDR

REF: OTTAWA 306

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES INFORMATION REFTEL AND REQUESTS EMBASSY TO KEEP DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN CANADIAN-GDR NEGOTIATIONS.

2. RE PARA 5 REFTEL, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH EXTAFF CONCERNING STATUS OF US-GDR RELATIONS. US HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH GDR LAST AUGUST ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS CONNECTED WITH FUTURE EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN AND WASHINGTON. US AND GDR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMS VISITED EAST BERLIN AND WASHINGTON, RESPECTIVELY, IN LATE AUGUST AND EARLY SEPTEMBER TO INSPECT POSSIBLE CHANCERY SITES, RESIDENCES FOR AMBASSADORS AND LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS. WE ADVISED THE EAST GERMANS IN

NOVEMBER THAT THE BUILDINGS OUR TEAM SAW WERE NOT SATISFACTORY AND WE SPELLED OUT OUR MINIMUM PROPERTY NEEDS IN SOME DETAIL AT THAT TIME. THE EAST GERMANS RESPONDED TO OUR APPROACH IN MID-FEBRUARY, MAKING SOME NEW SUGGESTIONS FOR A POSSIBLE CHANCERY BUILDING AND AN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING THIS PROPOSAL. THE EAST GERMANS HAVE GIVEN US NO EVALUATION

OF THEIR OWN TEAM'S FINDINGS. FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN HELD AND WILL ONLY BE SCHEDULED ONCE OUR ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN SATISFIED.

3. FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONCERNED WITH USUAL ASPECTS OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS (APPLICABILITY OF VIENNA CONVENTION, ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS ON CLAIMS AND OTHER MATTERS, SIMULTANEOUS OPENING OF EMBASSIES, ETC.). ON THE MARGINS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, WE PLAN TO MENTION CASES INVOLVING HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS (SPLIT FAMILIES, ENGAGED COUPLES) AND TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE GDR AGREEMENT TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS.

4. WE HAVE NEITHER DISCOURAGED NOR ENCOURAGED CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL CONTACTS WITH THE GDR IN THE PERIOD PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. POLITICAL CONTACTS HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO THOSE NECESSARY FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, AND HAVE BEEN CHANNELED THROUGH THE GDR'S UN MISSION. INFORMAL CONTACTS HAVE EXISTED FOR MANY YEARS BETWEEN OFFICERS OF OUR MISSION IN BERLIN AND SOME EAST BERLIN INSTITUTES AND LOW-LEVEL GDR OFFICIALS, AND THESE HAVE BEEN CONTINUED AND EXPANDED.

5. WE CANNOT ESTIMATE HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE US TO MOVE TO FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS NOR HOW LONG THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL LAST. THE DEPARTMENT (EUR/CE) WOULD BE HAPPY TO BRIEF CANADIAN EMBASSY REPS ON THIS SUBJECT AT THEIR CONVENIENCE. CASEY

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